



Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave
Colorado's Fourth Congressional District



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Mr. Chairman: Investigate Transportation Funding Alternatives
*Musgrave & RSC Chairwoman Myrick urge Chairman Young
to look at other funding proposals*

Washington DC: A strong proponent of highway construction, Rep. Marilyn Musgrave (CO-04), today, joined Republican Study Committee Chairwoman Sue Myrick in petitioning Transportation Chairman Don Young to hold full committee hearings to discuss transportation funding reforms.

Today, in a letter to Chairman Young, Musgrave and Myrick stressed that the recent introduction of the transportation re-authorization bill provides a suitable opportunity to investigate proposals that would generate billions of dollars for construction of highways, city streets, county roads, and bridges across the nation – without raising taxes. Funding for Young's bill reportedly relies heavily on his support for increasing the gas tax.

"Tragically, instead of seeking creative transportation reforms, it seems that some Members of Congress have resolved that raising taxes is the only way fund road construction," said Musgrave. "Instead of collecting more in taxes at the pump, I propose the federal government investigate and institute some responsible reforms."

Throughout this session in Congress, several alternative proposals to raising the federal gasoline tax have been offered by Members of the House and Senate, including the FAST Act, reforming the Davis - Bacon Act, bonding initiatives, and ending government siphoning of transportation funds for other purposes. In fact, Musgrave recently introduced H.R. 2672, a bill that focuses on the inefficiencies of construction and introduces a cost-saving alternative. This bill has the support of 60 bi-partisan co-sponsors.

LETTER ATTACHED

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Marilyn Musgrave was elected to the United States House of Representatives in January 2003, and she represents Colorado's Fourth Congressional District. Musgrave is a member of the House Committees on Agriculture, Education and the Workforce, and Small Business. To learn more about Rep. Musgrave please visit her official website at <http://www.house.gov/musgrave>.

Date 20, 2003

The Honorable Don Young
Chairman
House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2165 RHOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Securing funding for our nation's interstate highways, city streets, county roads and bridges should be one of the top priorities of the 108th Congress. Through the reauthorization of TEA-21, we have the opportunity to ensure that our infrastructure is sound and that we are prepared to face the transportation challenges of the future.

During the first session of this Congress, several members of both the House and the Senate have developed transportation reform proposals, which would efficiently and effectively generate billions of transportation dollars. Each of these proposals has been assigned to your committee and they merit your strongest consideration.

We urge you to hold a full committee hearing to discuss transportation reform, specifically the Fast Act, Davis-Bacon Reform, bonding, an expansion of state infrastructure banks, and private/public initiatives, so Congress and private citizens will be well informed about all the transportation funding options available. It is crucial that we approach the TEA-21 reauthorization armed with innovative ideas and sound fiscal solutions.

Again, we thank you for highlighting our nation's great need for transportation funding. Therefore, we ask that you make holding a hearing on transportation reform a priority in your committee.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Musgrave

Sue Myrick